IN THE CLAIMS:

Aug 31 2005 2:16PM

What is claimed is:

- 1. (Canceled)
- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Canceled)
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Canceled)
- 8. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for eaching content, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of data packets containing content and control information; caching the content and control information of each data packet;

responsive to a request from a requestor for the particular content associated with a specified one of the plurality of data packets, determining whether a particular indicator is present with the particular content;

sending the particular content to the requestor without performing a validity check, whenever the particular indicator is present with the particular content; and

performing a validity check before sending the particular content to the requestor, only if the particular indicator is absent from the particular content; and

said plurality of data packets are received at a node, and the particular indicator is present with the particular content only if the particular content is subscribed to at said node.

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- (Original). The method of claim 8, wherein the indicator identifies the content as being 9. content distribution capable.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising: responsive to a determination that the particular indicator is absent, performing the validity check using the control information.
- 11. (Canceled)
- (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the control information follows a hypertext 12. transfer protocol.
- 13. (Canceled)
- 14. (Canceled)
- 15. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:
 - a bus system;
 - a communications unit connected to the bus system;
- a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
- a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a plurality of data packets containing content and control information of each data packet; cache the content and control information of each data packet; determine whether a particular indicator is present with the particular content in response to a request from a requestor for the particular content associated with a specified one of the plurality of data packets; and send the particular content to the requestor without performing a validity check whenever it is determined that the particular indicator is present with the particular content; and perform a validity check before sending the particular content to the requestor, only if it is determined that the particular indicator is absent from the particular content: and receive

said plurality of data packets at a node, and the particular indicator is present with the particular content only if the particular content is subscribed to at said node.

- 16. (Canceled)
- 17. (Canceled)
- 18. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the content is a Web page.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, further comprising:
 performing means, responsive to an absence of an enablement for content distribution, for
 performing a validity check on the content in response to a request for the content.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the data processing system is one of a cache for Web content or a proxy server.
- 21. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein an indicator in the packet is used for determining whether the content is enabled for content distribution.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the indicator is located in a header of the packet.
- 23. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the packet is transmitted using a hypertext transfer protocol.
- 24. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for caching content, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a <u>plurality of data packets</u> containing content and control information of each data packet;

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caching means for caching the content and control information of each data packet; determining means, responsive to a request from a requestor for the particular content associated with a specified one of the plurality of data packets, for determining whether a particular indicator is present with the particular content;

sending means, responsive to each determination that the particular indicator is present, for sending the particular content to the requestor without performing a validity check whenever the particular indicator is present with the particular content; and

validity checking means, responsive only to a determination that the particular indicator is net present, for performing a validity check before sending the particular content to the requestor, only if the particular indicator is absent from the particular content; and

said receiving means receives said plurality of data packets at a node, and the particular indicator is present with the particular content only if the particular content is subscribed to at said node.

- 25. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the indicator identifies the content as being content distribution capable.
- 26. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24 further comprising: performing means, responsive to a determination that the particular indicator is absent, for performing the validity check using the control information.
- 27. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the content is one of a Web page, an audio file, a text file, a program, or a video file.
- 28. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the control information follows a hypertext transfer protocol.
- 29. (Canceled)
- 30. (Canceled)

Page 5 of 8 Agarwalia et al. - 09/960,448 31. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a data processing system for caching content, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a <u>plurality of data packets</u> containing content and control information;

second instructions for caching the content and control information of each data packet; third instructions, responsive to a request from a requestor for the particular content associated with a specified one of the plurality of packets. for determining whether a particular indicator is present with the particular content;

fourth instructions, responsive whenever it is determined that the particular indicator is present for sending the particular content to the requestor without performing a validity check whenever the particular indicator is present with the particular content; and

fifth instructions, responsive to a determination that the particular indicator is not present for performing a validity check before sending the particular content to the requestor, only if the particular indicator is absent from the particular content; and

sixth instructions for receiving said phurality of data packets at a node, the particular indicator being present with the particular content only if the particular content is subscribed to at said node.

32. (Canceled)